CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM Alternatives at a Glance

What's an "Alternative?"

An alternative is a collection of activities (e.g., habitat restoration, new storage, policy changes, etc.) that together form a plausible environmental and water management solution to problems associated with the Bay-Delta system. During Phase I of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, three conceptual alternatives were developed, all including program components to comprehensively address ecosystem restoration, water quality improvements, enhanced Delta levee system integrity, and increased water use efficiency. While these programs are common to the three conceptual alternatives, the key variable distinguishing the alternatives from one another is how each would move and store water within the Bay-Delta system. Of the original 17 variations of these alternatives, five were eliminated during initial evaluation, leaving the following 12 to undergo more detailed evaluation. The CALFED solution, or preferred alternative, will comprise the four common programs and (or a mixture of) the storage and conveyance options below. (See Program Overview for common program descriptions.)

Alternative 1: Existing Conveyance System

Alternative 1 relies upon the common programs to achieve program goals with only minimal changes to the present Delta Configuration. New fish screens, some additional infrastructure, various storage possibilities and potential operational improvements differentiate the three configurations of Alternative 1.

1A

- Essentially overlays implementation of the four common programs on the current system.
- No new storage or conveyance facilities are proposed.

1B

- Proposes new fish screens at the Banks and Tracy pumping plants of the State and Federal water projects.
- Proposes an intertie between the Tracy Pumping Plant and Clifton Court Forebay.

1C

- Builds upon 1A and 1B, adding new surface and groundwater storage facilities throughout the watershed.
- Significant operational changes.
- Some channel improvements in the Delta to better utilize the new storage and to allow an increase of South Delta exports to the full existing capacity at Banks Pumping Plant.

Alternative 2: Modified Through Delta Conveyance

This alternative combines the common programs with significant modifications of through Delta channels to improve water conveyance across the Delta. Combinations of four potential conveyance configurations and three new storage configurations differentiate the four variations of this alternative.

2A

- Provides more efficient water movement across the Delta by significantly improving conveyance from the Sacramento River through a new screened intake at Hood to modified Delta channels.
- Includes improvements adjacent to Snodgrass Slough, the North Fork Mokelumme River, and Old River near Clifton Court Forebay.

- New fish screens at the Tracy and Banks pumping plants, an intertie between the pumping plants, and an operable barrier or equivalent at the head of Old River on the San Joaquin.
- Provides no additional water storage.

2B

- Same as 2A except adds new surface and groundwater storage facilities throughout the watershed.

2D

- Provides more efficient water movement across the Delta by significantly improving conveyance from the Sacramento River through a new screened intake at Hood to modified Delta channels.
- Includes improvements adjacent to Snodgrass Slough, the North Fork Mokelumme River, and Old River near Clifton Court Forebay.
- Adds new fish screens at Tracy and Banks pumping plants, an intertie between the pumping plants and an operable barrier or equivalent in the south Delta at the head of the Old River.
- Adds new storage adjacent to the aqueduct south and downstream of the Delta.

2E

Similar to 2D, except it replaces the intake at Hood to convey Sacramento River water into the central Delta with a weir structure leading to a wide conveyance system with associated habitat areas at Tyler Island.

Alternative 3: Dual Delta Conveyance

This alternative adds an isolated facility to the through Delta modifications of Alternative 2, which together combine with the common programs to move water through and *around* the Delta. Combinations of potential conveyance configurations and new storage configurations differentiate the variations of this alternative.

3A

- North and South Delta channel modifications designed to improve water conveyance and a small (5,000 cfs) open channel isolated facility or a pipeline.
- Includes new fish screens at the Tracy and Banks pumping plants, an intertie between the pumping plants and operable barriers or equivalent in the south Delta.
- No new water storage.

3B

- Same as 3A except it provides additional water storage facilities.

3E

- Similar to 3B except for the size of the isolated facility.
- Old River will not be enlarged, nor will an operable barrier be constructed at the head of the Old River.

3H

- Modified conveyance in the North and South Delta designed for water conveyance and significant habitat restoration.
- Adds a small (5,000 cfs) isolated facility constructed as an open channel and surface and groundwater storage.

3I

- Three new diversion locations for Tracy and Banks pumping plants and surface and groundwater storage.
- Similar to 2C with one diversion extended to Hood and new surface groundwater storage.
- New diversions could be used separately or in combination to provide increased operational flexibility.
- One new in-Delta water storage would receive water from one of these new diversions.
- Includes new fish screens at the Tracy and Banks pumping plants and an intertie between the pumping plants.

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